

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixteenth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of Sixteenth Essex Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.9% (2,315) of these admissions reside in the Sixteenth Essex Representative District.¹ **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Sixteenth Essex Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 82% were male and 18% were female.
- 66% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 41% were white non-Latino, 3% were black non-Latino, 52% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 66% were never married, 13% were married, and 21% reported not to be married now.
- 48% had less than high school education, 41% completed high school, and 11% had more than high school education.
- 17% were employed.
- 11% were homeless.
- 25% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixteenth Essex Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	27%	55%	8%	5%	3%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

¹ To protect client confidentiality, statistics representing clients under 17 years of age have been omitted from this fact sheet.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2							
Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2002							
Sixteenth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,035	1,326	565	682	701	966	571
FY '96	1,957	1,306	581	569	572	1,010	626
FY '97	1,964	1,192	457	542	488	1,028	659
FY '98	2,430	1,396	619	680	414	1,400	948
FY '99	2,520	1,428	677	780	469	1,433	905
FY '00	2,720	1,590	823	867	517	1,478	1,004
FY '01	2,533	1,410	711	819	395	1,379	884
FY '02	2,315	1,381	629	716	323	1,350	880

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Sixteenth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

